DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 397 172 UD 031 050

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TITLE The State of Minority Languages. International Perspectives on Survival and Decline. European Studies on Multilingualism. Volume 5.
REPORT NO ISBN-90-265-1414-X; ISSN-0926-6461
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 323p.
AVAILABLE FROM Swets & Zeitlinger Publishers, P.O. Box 825, 2160 SZ Lisse, The Netherlands ($48).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Bilingual Education; *Cultural Maintenance; Cultural Pluralism; Educational Policy; Ethnic Groups; *Language Maintenance; *Language Minorities; Language Planning; Language Usage; *Minority Groups; *Native Speakers; Nonstandard Dialects; Political Influences; Public Policy; Second Languages; Urbanization

ABSTRACT

In many respects, the state of minority language reflects the dynamics of the society at large. At this time, many minority languages are threatened by modernization and urbanization, although others find support in new regional autonomy and movements toward cultural preservation. The 17 chapters of this collection describe the status of a number of minority languages. The topical variation on the state of minority languages is well illustrated in the first section of the book, in which three articles focus on national policies, educational issues, and communication styles or attitudes. The second section presents four studies reflecting the long-time academic concerns with multilingualism and the language proficiency of bilingual speakers in Europe. Two articles then report on the state of Native American minority languages in the United States and Mexico, and one considers the relevance of language planning in national policy. These discussions are followed by large-scale surveys and in-depth studies that analyze the status of minority languages in particular nations and demonstrate research approaches. A final section reflects on the future of minority languages in a changing world. References follow each chapter. (Contains 24 figures, 69 tables, and 4 schemas.) (SLD)

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